IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new claims 28-50 as follows:

Sub B1
A1

28. (New) Synthetic particle consisting of at least one nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence and one protein having a molecular weight in the range from 3900 to 4300 and consisting predominantly of arginine.

29. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the protein is selected from the following group: protamine, protamine base, protamine derivatives or salts, preferably protamine sulfate or protamine chloride.

30. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the nucleic acid sequence is in single-stranded form.

31. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the nucleic acid sequence is an oligonucleotide or a derivative thereof.

32. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 31, where the oligonucleotide consists of at least 5 nucleotides.

33. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 31, where the derivative is a phosphorothioate or an anionic derivative.

34. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the average diameter of the particle is in the range from 10 nm to 100 gym.

35. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 28, where the particle carries a surface electric charge.

36. (New) Synthetic particle according to Claim 35, where the surface charge is in the range from -40 mV to +40 mV.

37. (New) Process for the preparation of synthetic particles according to any of the preceding claims, with the following steps:

a) preparation of an aqueous first salt-free solution containing a protein having a molecular weight in the range from 3900 to 4300, the protein consisting predominantly of arginine,

b) addition to the first solution of a second salt-free solution containing a nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence and

c) mixing of the first and second solution.

38. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the molar ratio of nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence to protein is adjusted to produce a predetermined surface charge.

39. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the protein is selected from the following group: protamine, protamine base, protamine derivatives or salts, preferably protamine sulfate or protamine chloride.

40. (New) Process according to Claim 39, where protamine, protamine base, protamine derivatives are obtained from salmon sperm.

41. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the nucleic acid sequence is in single-stranded form.

42. (New) Process according to Claim 41, where the nucleic acid sequence is an oligonucleotide or a derivative thereof.

43. (New) Process according to Claim 42, where the oligonucleotide consists of at least 5 nucleotides.

44. (New) Process according to Claim 42, where the derivative is a phosphorothioate or an anionic derivative.

45. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the diameter of the particle is in the range from 10 nm to 100 μm.

46. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the particle carries a surface electric charge.

47. (New) Process according to Claim 37, where the surface charge is in the range from -40 mV to +40 mV.

48. (New) Use of a protein having a molecular weight in the range from 3900 to 4300 and consisting predominantly of arginine for the preparation of a synthetic particle consisting of the protein and at least one nucleic acid sequence or nucleic acid derivative sequence.

49. (New) Use according to Claim 48, where the protein is selected from the following group: protamine, protamine base, protamine derivatives or salts, preferably protamine sulfate or protamine chloride.

50. (New) Use according to Claim 48, where the nucleic acid is an oligonucleotide which is preferably single stranded and preferably consists of at least 5 nucleotides, or a derivative thereof which is preferably in the form of a phosphorothioate.